CHAPTER II.

ADVENT OF TRAPPERS AND TRAVELLERS

1778-1846.

INVASION BY FUR HUNTERS—BARON IA HONTAN AND HIS FABLES—THE POP-ULAR GEOGRAPHIC IDEA-DISCOVERY OF THE GREAT SALT LAKE-JAMES BRIDGER DECIDING A BET-HE DETERMINES THE COURSE OF BEAR RIVER TIONS OF 1845 AND 1846-ORIGIN OF THE NAME UTAH. PARED-WHITMAN AND LOVEJOY-FRÉMONT-PACIFIC COAST IMMIGRA-BARTLESON COMPANY-STATEMENTS OF BIDWELL AND BELDEN COM-COUNTRY-WALKER'S VISIT TO CALIFORNIA-SOME OLD MAPS-THE TRY-PEGLEG SMITH-WOLFSKILL, YOURT, AND BUETON TRAVERSE THE SKEEN OGDEN-JOURNEY OF JEDEDIAH S, SMITH-A STRANGE COUN-RECEWOURTH ON THE GROUND-FORT BUILT AT UTAH LAKE-PETER AND COMES UPON THE GREAT LAKE-HENRY, ASHLEY, GREEN, AND

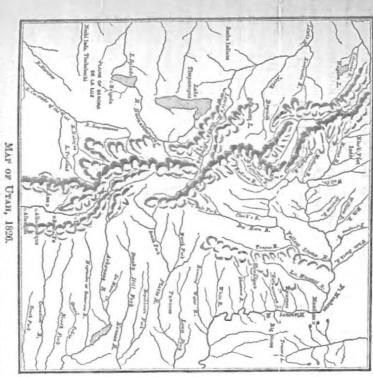
fur hunters standing on the border of the Great Salt it is an arm of the sea.1 Lake, tasting its brackish waters, and wondering if Half a century passes, and we find United States

tan myth. He says, 'the story of La Hontan excited much speculation, and tan myth. He says, 'the story of La Hontan excited much speculation, and the lake finally became represented received various additions in his day; and the lake finally became represented on the published English maps.' Long before this date, however, reliable information had been received by the Spaniards, and the same may have come to English trappers; so that by 1828 reports of the existence of such a sheet to English trappers; so that by 1828 reports of the existence of such a sheet to say that neither La Hontan may have reached civilization. It is needless to say that neither La Hontan among the many fabulous wonders reported he somewhere on the western side of the continent placed a body of bad-tasting water, Stansbury, Exped., that the Winnebagoes reported to Carver, Travels, gious falsehoods of 1689 for the first information of Great Salt Lake. caravans from 'the mountains lying near the heads of somewhere amid the wilds west of the Rocky Mountains scems to have been 151, does not hesitate to affirm 'that the existence of a large lake of salt water known vaguely as long as 150 years since. Historical and Geographical Memoir of the North American Continent, published in Dublin in 1820, it is written: 'Concerning the lakes and rivers of to justify map-makers in placing a large lake in that vicinity.

Historical and Geographical Memoir of the North American C nor Carver ever received information from the natives, or elsewhere, sufficient this as yet imperfectly explored region we have little to say. There are those who soberly refer to the Baron la Hontan and his prodixi. 34, repeats and refutes the La Hon-Perhaps it was salt, and not silver Travels, 33-6, as coming down it. the Colorado River. Because

> ascended the Missouri with Henry and Ashley, found the winter of 1824-5 a party of trappers, who had honor of discovery. It happened in this wise. During records, was James Bridger, to whom belongs the First among these, confining ourselves to authentic

we have no certain account. Two have been noticed in the western parts, a salt lake about the thirty-ninth degree of latitude, the western limits of which are unknown, and the lake of Timpanogos, about the forty-first degree, of great but unascertained extent.



In a report submitted to congress May 15, 1826, by Mr Baylies it is stated that 'many geographies have placed the Lake Timpanogos in latitude 40, but they have obviously confounded it with the Lake Theguayo, which extends from 30° 40′ to 41°, and from which it appears separated by a neck or peninsula; the two lakes approaching in one direction as near as 20 miles. 19th he was writing about except as going to show the vague and imperfect imnothing-the honorable gentleman, with all due respect, not knowing what Cong., 1st Sess., House Rept. No. 213. Such statements as this amount to

Pression of the popular mind concerning this region at that time.

I will give for what it is worth a claim, set up in this same congres-

